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At the heart of our programs, The Centre for Outdoor Studies is dedicated to contributing to key UNSDG goals.
Empowering through education, we nurture leadership, life skills and environmental stewardship.

Commitment to sustainability is key; from bicycle maintenance to Leave No Trace, we instill responsible practices. Our engagement in marine and environmental programs actively advocates for conservation.



When we first started to research for our trip to the Sikkim, we came across a dearth of information on the web. We contacted independent cycle tourists, facebook and reddit groups and commercial organizations and everyone told us the same thing – that Sikkim is too hilly, that it would be insanity to attempt cycling Sikkim. To make matters worse, when we told them that we were attempting to cycle in June, they just shrugged their shoulder in disbelief. Given the erratic nature of the monsoons, the rain would pose an additional challenge to an already audacious undertaking. Nobody would cycle Sikkim in their right minds especially in a group, especially in June. You have to be mad – people said. Sounded like a challenge we had to take on.

Our team was ten strong comprising of seasoned cyclists as well as first time cycle tourers. All of us has trained hard with countless climbing drills in preparation for all the steep terrain. We attended workshops on emergency medicine, bicycle repair, and photography. We read books, watched documentaries, researched local customs and traditions. We networked with locals, arranged quizzes on birds and a lot more.

On the road, conditions were far from ideal. There was steep never ending ascents, bad roads, and bad food. There were mechanical failures, punctures, eye infections, numb fingers in freezing rain, and incessant red tape. But support was never far off! We rallied around each other, singing song and cracking jokes making the hardest of climbs, bearable. Our mechanical team, worked diligently to keep parts clean and well lubed in the harshest of conditions and we had friends jump in and manage our social media getting our stories out to a large audience within hours of our day's ending. Behind the scenes, Col Chettri and his team at Sikkim Manipal went beyond their call of duty to get us all the logistical support we needed. Sikkim Manipal hosted our team and gave us a safe space to rest, recuperate and work on our gear. It was the perfect launchpad for our campaign. And quiet likely we are the only team of cyclists to complete the Eastern and Western Sikkim in a single season of touring.

After 20 days of cycling Sikkim in two phases, we mostly agree with what our detractors said. Yes, cycling Sikkim was tough and there are many reasons to not do it. But for the right team, it is the right challenge.

Ganesh Nayak
Coordinator,
Centre for Outdoor Studies,
Manipal Institute of Technology,
Manipal

How a place makes us *feel...*

I thought Sikkim would be very remote and we would have rides without seeing any people.

I thought that we would have to eat momos, thukpa or chowmein everyday.

ANTICIPATION

Words by Anuj Mahajan

I don't know what Sikkim is going to be like. How it will feel to me. Not the expedition, just the place. The way the air will feel to breathe, how it's water will taste, what colour it is. That's the beauty of travel I believe. As you go to new places you go to newer parts of your mind. I believe everyone's mind is a whole world. “इलुसा हा देह, किती खोल डोह”. So exploring a new place unlocks our access to a different part of our mind. How a place makes us feel. How the people there influence us. The situations we're put in there can turn us into a completely new person, for better or for the worse. On one hand, I feel traveling vacations to be unproductive because we're not earning money or learning anything we can put on our CVs but on the other, isn't it important to become better individuals?

Moments Captured

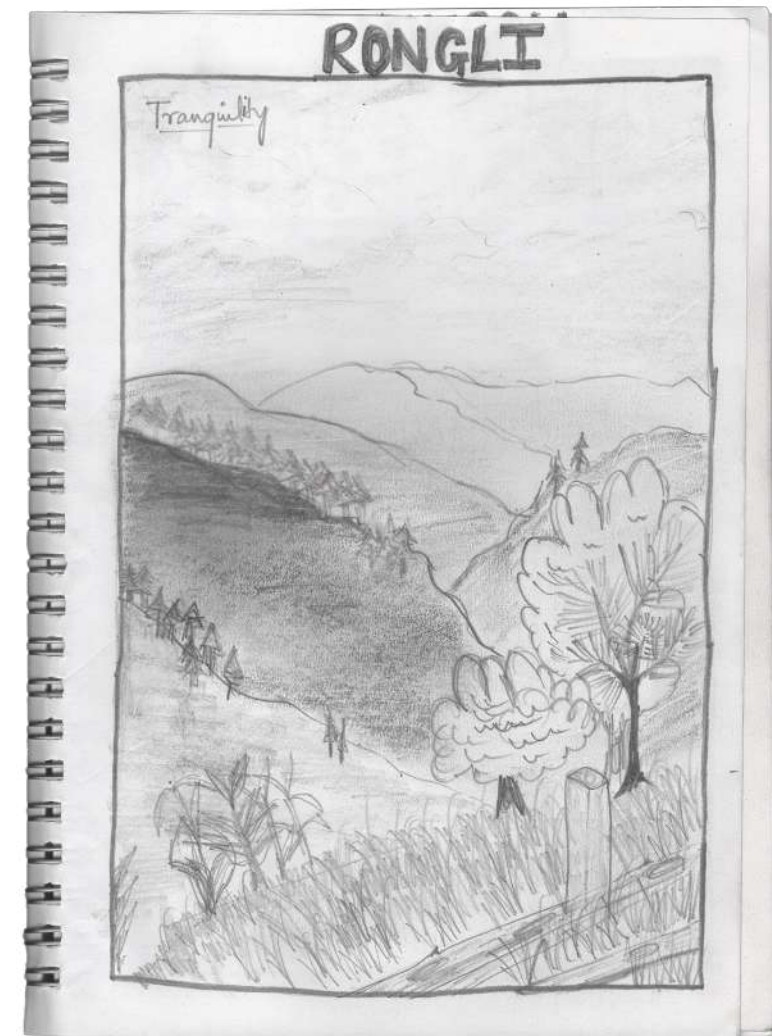
Memories from Harsh's Journals

Harsh B Patil



Home away from home

Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology feels like a magical place. It reminds me of home, much like the hills in Manipal, but now set in the foothills of the Himalayas. Just like the Suvarna river flows through Manipal, here it's the Teesta river that we'll be crossing in the coming days. It's amazing how landscapes, though different, can transport you to a completely new place and still make you feel right at home.



A day at Rongli (5200ft)

The homestay in Rongli sat quietly atop a small hill, tucked near a monastery called Agamluk, which translates to "a place where no one can reach." The name couldn't have been more fitting—the journey to get there was incredibly tough, with steep climbs and rugged paths. But the moment we arrived, it all felt worth it. The calmness, the views, and the sense of being in an untouched corner of the world made every challenging pedal feel like part of the adventure.

Eme Datchi

Eme = chilli
Datchi = cheese

Roughly chop meat of your choice.
(Pork, Beef, Chicken)

Roughly chop vegetables such as potato, tomato, onions, carrot. Add some green chillies as well.

Put all of these in a utensil filled with water and boil it to make a broth.

Add cheese and butter to this broth. Let it distribute throughout.

Serve hot with rice!



Words by Anuj Mahajan
Illustration & Design by Sagarika



Our quest to find authentic & regional food in Sikkim had been limited to momos & some mediocre thukpa. However Yuksom had other plans for us. We were starving as we entered the sleepy town. Luckily it had multiple places for lunch but most locals recommended a place called 'Traditional In'. I was overjoyed when they told us about a local dish called 'Eme Dachi'! We had to wait for it though as they didn't have the veggies for it at that time. No problem, we would be in Yuksom for another day.

We were told that it was something to be eaten along with rice, like a gravy. I was wondering how it would be different than any other gravy, but I couldn't have predicted. We had to place an order for the Eme Dachi half an hour before going there. This further peaked my curiosity about the dish.

Finally, our wait was over and there it was; an unspectacular bowl of vegetables, chicken pieces and chillies in a white coloured broth. But it wasn't just a broth, it was so flavourful. 'May be milk, cream?' I thought. I was close. And what would that dish be without an impressive side-dish with cheese and tomatoes.

Altogether, it made for a surprisingly filling and interesting meal & I was dying to know the recipe. The people in Traditional In were sweet enough to give me the recipe & explain the name. They also asked me to call them whenever I wanted to make it on my own, which is the sweetest thing ever!

CHAI & CHATS

with Harsh

Interview & Illustrations by Sanika

Interview

Which was the most memorable ride of the Sikkim Expedition for you?

It was the second day of us doing the Silk Route. We were cycling from Zuluk, and we had 30 hairpin bends to cover that day. The day was bit a bit foggy in the beginning, but it was pleasant.

Ganesh sir and I were up ahead. Anuj, Ira, Riana and Sanika were 10-20 minutes behind us. So, we were climbing, climbing, climbing and after a couple of bends, it started pouring. The rain was so heavy that we almost couldn't see the road up ahead. My clothes were drenched, the water got into my panniers, my bags, and my top tube. All my cash and my phone too was soaked. Thankfully, Ganesh sir and I soon found a tea shop and we stopped there to get out of the downpour. I was just very depressed at that moment because firstly, it was raining and everything was wet. All my clothes were wet. My socks were wet, and I was just dripping.

I just thought to myself, "why am I even here and why am I even doing this? I'm just getting wet in the middle

of nowhere on some mountain". Secondly, I was leaving for my Masters in Delft, Netherlands in a month. I could have been at home with my family, preparing to go there. Why on earth was I cycling in such a remote place instead? Soon, the tea we had ordered came so I got my cup and I was sipping and thinking about all this.

That's when, suddenly, Anuj, Ira, Riana and Sanika just burst in. They were all laughing like hell. Sanika especially. She was laughing like the devil in that moment. They had been in the rain way longer than me, they were wetter and colder than I was. I thought, how can a person remain sane in this situation, let alone, laugh? And I was like if these people who are doing something like this for the first time and who are younger than me, can still laugh in this situation, then I, as the team lead, owe it to the whole team to go and f*****g finish the ride. So I downed my tea and told everyone that I'd be leaving. And I started cycling. I just continued cycling and I reached Gnathang. I saw everybody else after 2 hours.

I just thought to myself, "why am I even here and why am I even doing this? I'm just getting wet in the middle of nowhere on some mountain".

HARSH B PATIL

Harsh has been a part of COS for the past three years. He was also a part of the first High Altitude Cycling Team, Zaskar Valley Expedition of MIT. His strong, calm demeanour and his experience in the Himalayas led him to be the Expedition Lead for Sikkim



Between Mountains & Moments

Photo Story by Ganesh Nayak

Three weeks in Sikkim gave me around 600 shots. Portraits, landscape, action, street, and a bit of wildlife too. In selecting my pictures here, I tried my best to meet many expectations – to begin with, the team itself – who one day will look back in wonder and hopefully gather strength to chase down a dream or maybe a demon; their parents and friends, curious to see what we looked like, where we went and what we did; our leaders for whom this is a showcase of all that we are achieving in the novel field of experiential education; the curious reader out for a vicarious adventure and of course, myself.

I remember my first cycle tour of the Himalayas. Those 4 months that I cycled from Srinagar to Kathmandu capturing the many sights on a cheap point and shoot cannon, running on two AA batteries juiced up by a solar panel lashed to my panniers. My photos have evolved as much as my camera. And maybe even my soul, I'd imagine, lighting up a dull corner!

A decade of touring has made me see that a tourist comes to see the sights, and the traveler - to fall in love!

Whoever you are, come, travel with us...



Jorethang The team gears up for the day.



Yuksom Rest day chores



Yuksom

A local man tending to a hydrangea bush close to his home. The road to Yuksom was lined by Hydrangea bushes, kilometers on end.



Zuluk

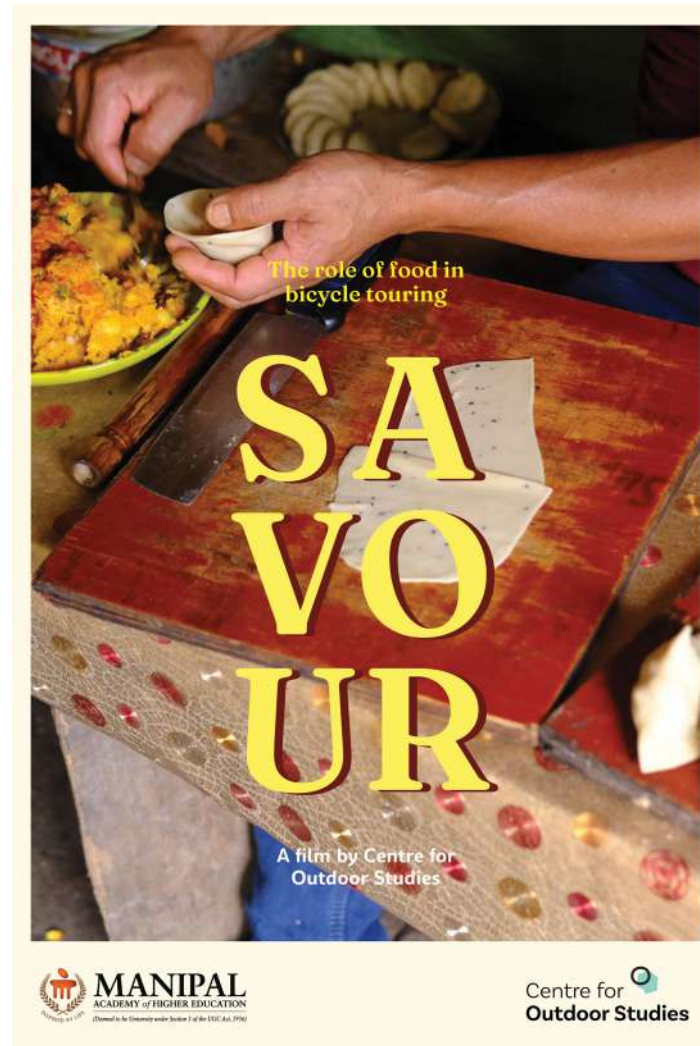
Looking down on Zuluk, an outpost on the ancient silk road, 56 hair pin bends from the sweltering plains of Bengal to the desolate lands of Tibet, shrouded by clouds.





Lingtham

Enjoying a phaley, our favourite snack. So gobsmacking good was this snack, that our videographer, Sharath, made a film on it. We were proud when we got news that it was selected for an official screening at South Asia Cycles Conference in November 2024 organized by University of Chicago and IIT Delhi.





Gnathang Valley
4000m

4 degree celcius, rain. Do or die!



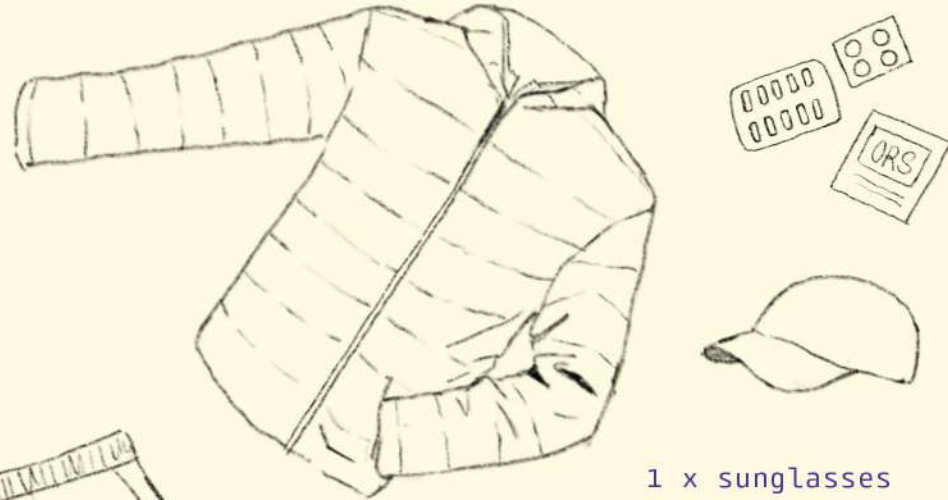
Kupup

Celebration around the stove after our epic crossing of Nathang Valley! At 10 rupee a cup, our tea bill ran into the thousands, and they started tearing up cardboard boxes after all the firwood ran out! Shivering, numb, delirious – never in our wildest imagination did we picture victory to look like this!

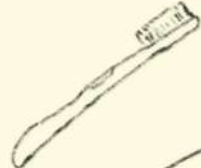
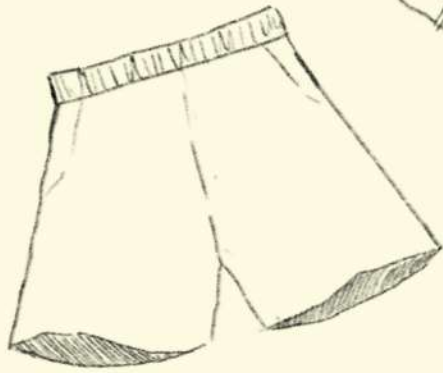
Packlist

CLOTHES

- 2 x active t-shirts
- 1 x travel shirt
- 1 x travel pants
- 1 x team jersey
- 3 x underwear
- 1 x thermal pair
- 1 x rain jacket
- 1 x down jacket
- 1 x wool cap
- 1 x buff
- 1 x gloves
- 1 x scarf
- 1 x sleeves
- 1 x shoes
- 2 x socks
- 1 x wool socks



- 1 x sunglasses
- 1 x suncap



ID's
College
Aadhar
Emergency Contact
Cash



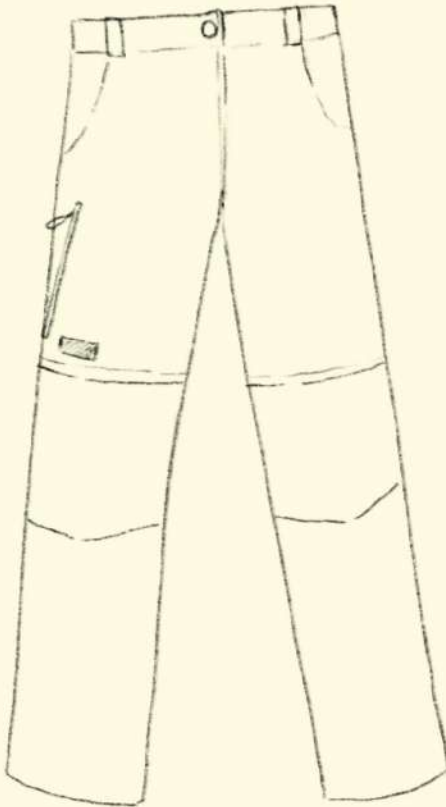
Personal Medicines
1x pencil
1 x journal

ELECTRONICS

- 1 x camera
- 3 x camera batteries
- 3 x memory cards
- 1 x phone
- 1 x power bank
- 1 x adapter + 1 x usb cable
- 1 x headlamp

SNACKS

Chikki
Nuts
Protein Bars



GRWM

for a day of cycling in Sikkim.....

Step 1: Wake up to the alarm at 5 am

Step 2: Hit snooze and get back under the blankets because it's freezing outside

Step 3: Wake up 10 minutes later (*showing great mental tenacity*)

Step 4: Go to the bathroom for your morning ablutions

Step 5: Come out running because you've taken too long and now your roommate's banging on the bathroom door

Step 6: Get dressed in your riding clothes (*jersey, shorts*) that are still wet from yesterday's ride (nothing dries in Sikkim)

Step 7: Anoint yourself in roll-on deo to cover up that week-long musk you've been fermenting (*no bathing in most places!*)

Step 7: Almost murder your roommate with the stench of your socks

Step 8: Do your hair (*this step is skipped if you're a guy- they had a 15-day long ban on hair combing and shaving*)

Step 9: Lather yourself in sunscreen

Step 10: Put on your sleeves, buff, cap and shoes

Step 11: Pack up your belongings into your panniers

Step 12: Take one wistful look back at the bed

Step 13: Remind yourself that you are the coolest person in the world for doing this Expedition

Step 14: Refill your water bottles and attach your panniers to your bike

Step 15: Take a deep breath of the crisp Sikkim air- today is a new adventure!

Congratulations! Now you're all set to ride in the Sikkim Expedition.



Infograph by Ayush Gupta



Jyamphi Moong

The music loving yeti

Words by B K Krishna
Illustrated by Sagarika

High in the Himalayas, where snow blankets the peaks, there is a tale of a Yeti with a love for music. The creature, called Jyamphi Moong, was feared by many but had a strange fondness for the tunes of a lonely herdsman named Atek. One day, while Atek played his flute—a traditional Sikkimese instrument—the haunting melody reached the Yeti's ears. Curious, she approached Atek, captivated by the music. Night after night, Jyamphi Moong demanded to hear more, but Atek, terrified, knew he had to drive her away. Noticing that she mimicked his every move, he devised a plan. One evening, he rubbed butter on himself for warmth, and Jyamphi Moong copied him the next day. Then, Atek pretended to warm himself with fire. When the Yeti mimicked this, her fur caught aflame, and she fled, never to return. This humorous tale shows the Lepcha people's connection to the land and their cleverness in overcoming challenges—even from a music-loving Yeti.

CHAI & CHATS

with Anuj

Interview and Illustrations by Sanika



Sanika: Hi Anuj, tell us a little about the Sikkim expedition.

Anuj: The Sikkim expedition was something like the culmination of my time with COS, or at least that's how I think about it. The Expedition in itself was a 15-day long journey which started in SMIT (Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology), one of our sister branches, and took us on an Eastern and Western circuit of Sikkim. In total, we cycled about 500 kms with a total elevation gain of 10,700m. And if statistics don't mean anything to you, we cycled up the ancient Silk Route. It was the trip of a lifetime.

Sanika: Surely, 10 college students on a 15-day trip would have gotten up to some shenanigan or the other, right? Tell us something funny or something memorable that happened in Sikkim.

Anuj: This is my favourite incident. Five of us were climbing up to Gnathang Valley via the Silk Route. Suddenly, the weather took a turn for the worse and it started pouring rain. Just non-stop, cold, intense rain. We absolutely had to stop. That's when we saw a shed. And by shed, I mean 6 pieces of tin stacked on top of each other. You have to understand that we were on the Silk Route and there's absolutely nothing on both sides of the road. There is no house, there is no hotel, there is nothing, there's no shelter whatsoever. The rain was brutal, we were some 3000 meters above sea level, sopping wet and shivering. So, the moment we saw the shed, we parked our bikes, and we went inside. That's when we realized that it

was a poop shed. Many animals had pooped all over the ground. It was not an ideal cover from rain, but that was what we had. We huddled up together for warmth. And soon, we were making up songs about being stuck in the poop shed. It went something like, "In the poop shed, Sharath is making a vlog. In the poop shed, Anuj is very long" We just kept going on and on like this and laughing hysterically at every verse. Instead of being worried we were just laughing and yeah, it helped us get through what was, now that I look back on it, a very scary situation.

Sanika: At any point in the trip, did it ever hit you that what you were doing was actually very dangerous? Did you ever feel like there was a threat to your life, or did you ever feel just scared or terrified?

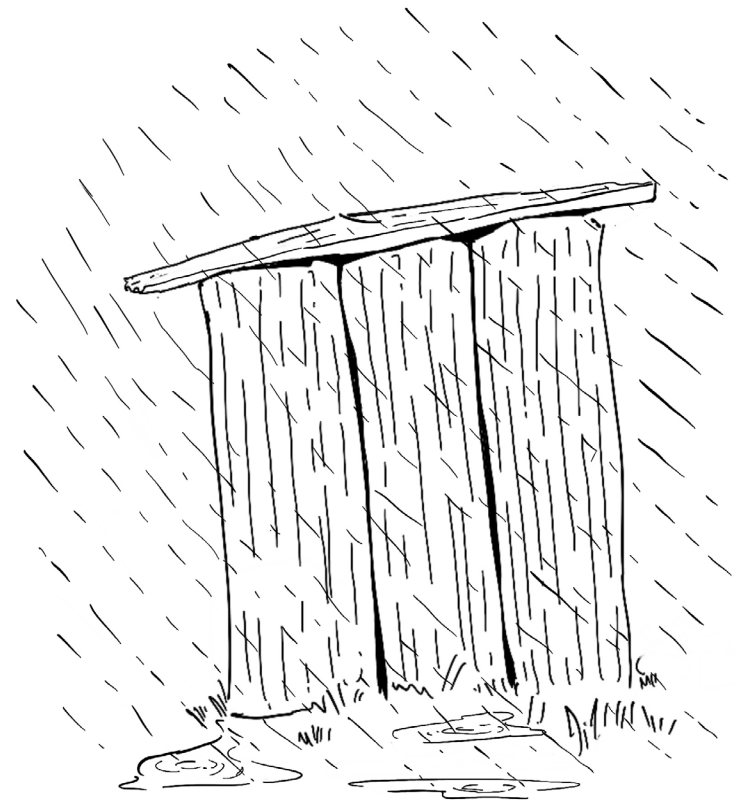
Anuj: Yeah. More than a couple of times. One incident was when we cycled past a rock-fall zone. We saw the signs along the road, but we never really believed that it would happen to us. That was until we were cycling uphill on a dirt road and a huge rock fell centimetres away from Amartya's head. That was a rude awakening!

The scariest situation, and the entire team would agree, was the ride to Kupup. We all expected this to be an easy ride because after the initial climb it was all descent. But when we stepped out, the temperature was around 4 degrees and then it started to rain. If it's just cold, it can be dealt with. But when you add rain to the mix? Then it's a different story. Even though we were climbing, and I had on four layers of clothing, I was shivering uncontrollably. I stopped feeling my hands and feet at a

point. I couldn't shift my gears because my fingers had literally lost their motor function, and I was not even able to tie my shoelaces when I stopped for a break. So that was really concerning, and I thought to myself, "I am going to lose a limb today". But luckily, we reached Kupup with all body parts intact. I later realised that it takes much more than that to lose a limb. But in that moment, we were definitely terrified.

Sanika: You mentioned that you mostly stayed in home stays in the villages or towns that you visited. So, did you ever get a chance to talk to the people there or interact with the locals of Sikkim? Do you have any memorable interactions to share?

Anuj: The people of Sikkim were very kind to us. An interesting person that we met was the lady who was the caretaker of our homestay in Zuluk. She was quite a character—a very loud woman! She worked in the kitchen downstairs while we stayed in a separate building above. So, before every meal, she would yell from her kitchen and call out to the people in the rooms. During our first meal there, she shouted and grumbled at us because we arrived late from our ride and the food had grown cold. But then the next morning, she was also the one who said, "Arey, khao thoda aur" and forced us to eat more of her food before our long ride.



On another ride, it started to rain suddenly, so we stopped at the nearest shelter, which turned out to be a kind of warehouse. The owner was sitting outside and, seeing us wet and exhausted, offered to open up his warehouse for us. He let us stow our bikes inside and even suggested a nearby place for lunch.

Sanika: In all your travel through all these towns and all these villages, was there a town that stayed with you even after you left it? What made it that way?

Anuj: I think everyone would agree that the best town was Yuxsom. It was a sleepy town, but it had its charm. It was built tastefully. There was a lot of greenery and trees all around. We spotted many birds there, and we even enjoyed some fantastic chai and samosas. We walked around and found Dubdi monastery- the oldest monastery in Sikkim. During the nighttime, the sky was lit up with stars like we'd never seen before, thanks to the town having so little artificial light. Best of all, we got some great litchis!

I also really loved Gnathang Valley. Not so much as a town, but just the valley itself. The kind of landscapes that it offered; I've never seen in India. Even though

The rain was brutal, we were some 3000 meters above sea level, sopping wet and shivering. So, the moment we saw the shed, we parked our bikes, and we went inside. That's when we realized that it was a poop shed.

I've been to Kashmir and Uttarakhand, the way the mountains came together to form the valley and the way the wildflowers bloomed besides the flowing streams was just something I had never seen before. Those two places are my favourite from the trip.

Sanika: Let's talk about food. How was the cuisine of Sikkim? Was there anything new that you ate or anything new that you found?

Anuj: We obviously ate a lot of Momos, Thukpa and Chow-mein. The tea was amazing at 99% of the places. We used to have tea every time we stopped during a break.

I also got a chance to try some new food. A local delicacy, called "Ema-Datshi" (pronounced "Eh-may da-chi"). It's a Bhutanese dish with Tibetan origins, which is basically a chili cheese broth. That was amazingly flavourful. Though the recipe was very minimalistic, the richness from the cheese and milk was exactly what we needed in the cold.

The homestays had pretty regular food like roti, dal chawal and sabzis. But we were introduced to a local staple vegetable called Ningro (pronounced "Nin-groo"), which we later found out was a fiddlehead fern.

On our very first day in Jorethang, we found something called Chhurpi, which was like a block of cheese, only 100% dehydrated. So, you cannot distinguish it from a block of wood. It's that hard. The locals keep it in their mouths, and chew on it for hours and hours. It was like a glorified cheese flavoured chewing gum.

We had a lot of litchi enthusiasts in our group, and luckily for them, we got amazing litchis in almost every town we went to. We also got to try a thing called Phaley. It was this absolutely delicious snack item that had a fried covering and was usually stuffed with either minced meat or vegetables. It was so good that I still think about it.

Sanika: One last question. If there's something you learned in Sikkim that you would like to tell our readers, what would that be?

Anuj: The primary thing I learnt was being responsible for yourself. Even though we were 10 people, and we had our program director, and a team lead amongst ourselves, I think everyone had to be a leader. At one point or another, everyone stepped up. If someone from my group was slacking, I would step up. Similarly, I knew the others were available if I was slacking. So, I learnt what it meant to be accountable towards a group. Another very important thing that I learnt during Sikkim was the sort of resilience that we had to build. We had to

come back from rides, after long days of horrible climbs, after doing 50 kilometres or more, and still finish our chores. We had to come back, and we had to wash our clothes. Then we had to come out and clean our bikes. I got a very first-hand experience of what discipline means. Rain or shine, this routine had to be followed. You could not just come back, drop down on the bed and take a nap. No, you had to wash up. You had to clean and wash your clothes. You had to clean up your bike. Then the next morning you had to get up at the crack of dawn and no matter how cold it was, no matter how wet your clothes were, you had to wear them and get on the bike. It really hit me that I'm the only person that can help myself.

Sanika: We had so much fun talking to you, Anuj. Any closing thoughts?

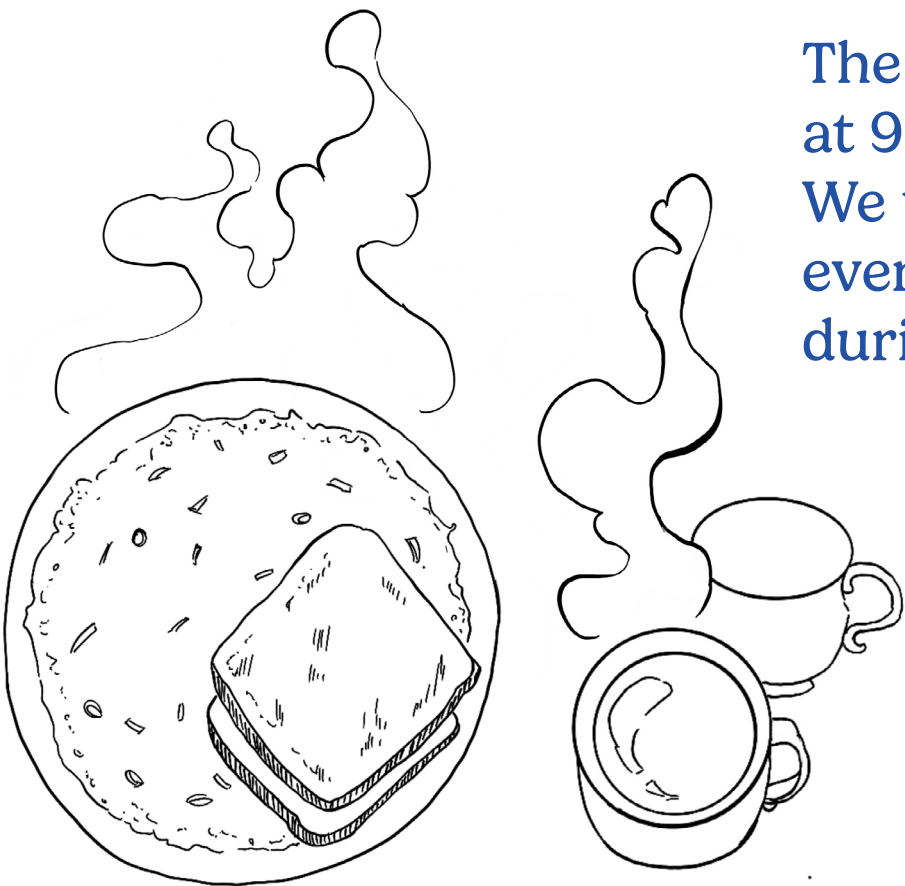
Anuj: This trip was my most unique experience. This

Expedition was not just a trip where we would go and chill for 15 days. We had times when we were almost all down to tears. We had times when we were too tired to go on. We had times when we were faced with so many inconveniences that I just wanted to give up and get a truck to pick me up. But we carried on.

If you ever get a chance to do something like this, go for it with your eyes closed because the friends that you'll make and the bond that you'll share is something that only the road can give you. I think if you have the chance to be involved with COS in any way, do it, because this is what it has to offer.

I'll end with something Ganesh sir said to us, "You need to do one thing a year where you're literally scared for your life, because after you come back, all your problems in normal life will be miniscule."

ANUJ MAHAJAN
Anuj Mahajan is a graduate of MIT in B. Tech Electronics and Instrumentation Engineering, batch of '24. He has been a part of the Centre for Outdoor Studies since 2022 and a participant of The Adventurer 4, 5, and 6.



The tea was amazing at 99% of the places. We used to have tea every time we stopped during a break.

ASIAN
BARRED
OWLET

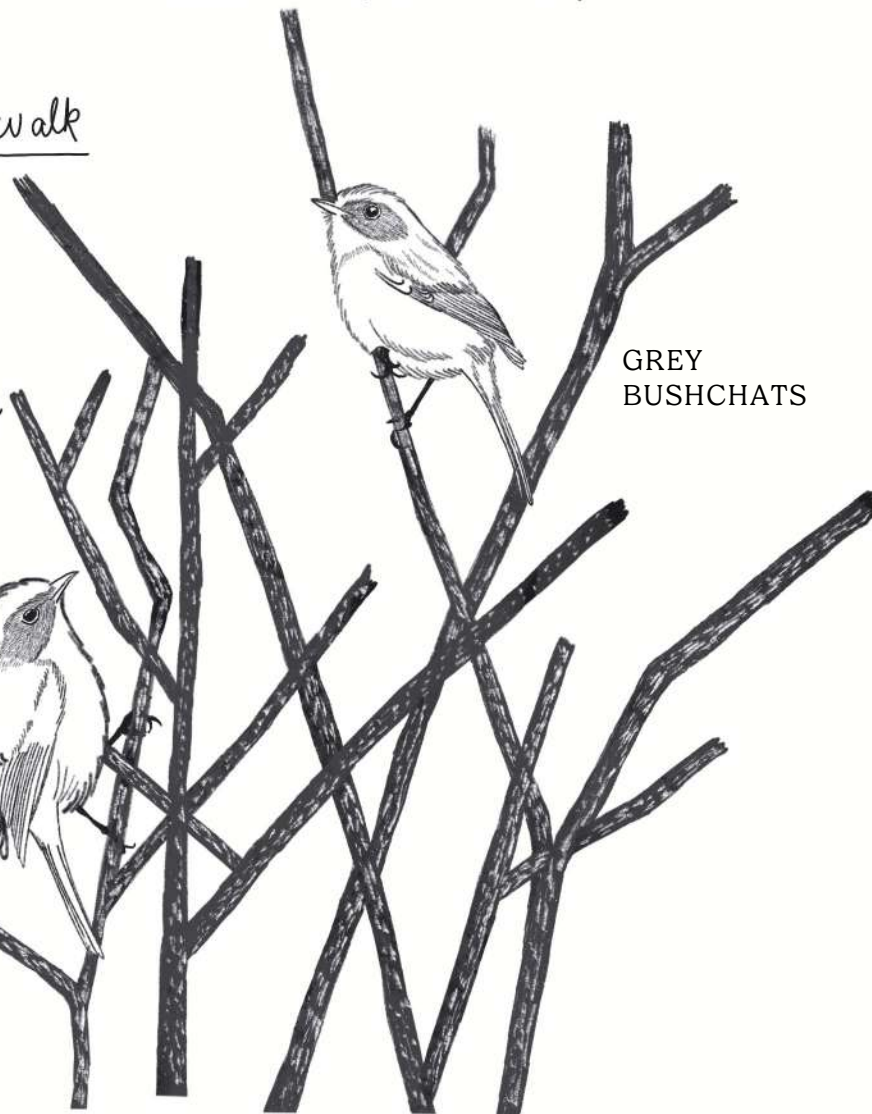


Day 3: Pelling to Yuksam (June 5)

Sherath and I were discussing about owls and their behaviour and as I was explaining to him, how all birds get aggressive when an owl calls or is seen by the other birds and then suddenly the Asian Barred Owlet starts calling and the Black Bulbuls, Streak Breasted Scimitar Babbler all go crazy and started mobbing the owl! What a sighting we got on World Environment Day!

June 6: The team went for a bird walk

The Grey Bushchats were all over the place continuously calling and feeding on small insects



GREY
BUSHCHATS

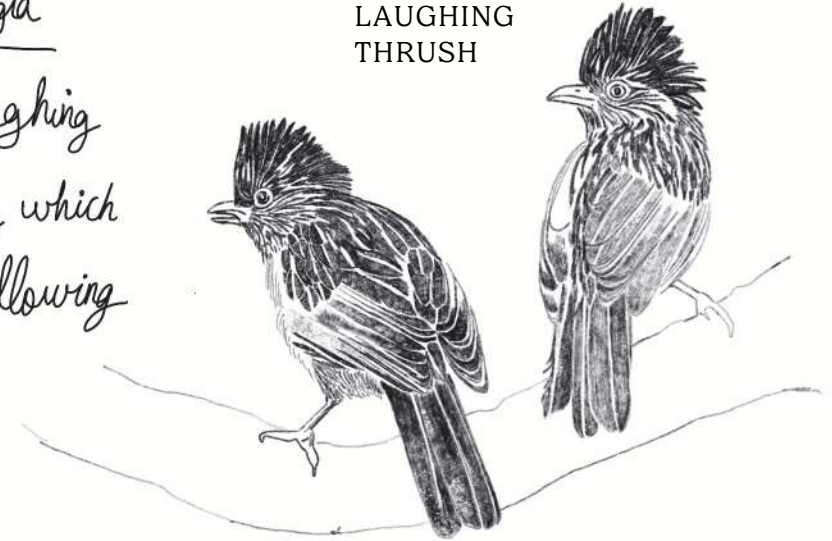
Spotted in Sikkim

Observations by Tejas K Rao
Illustrated by Sagarika

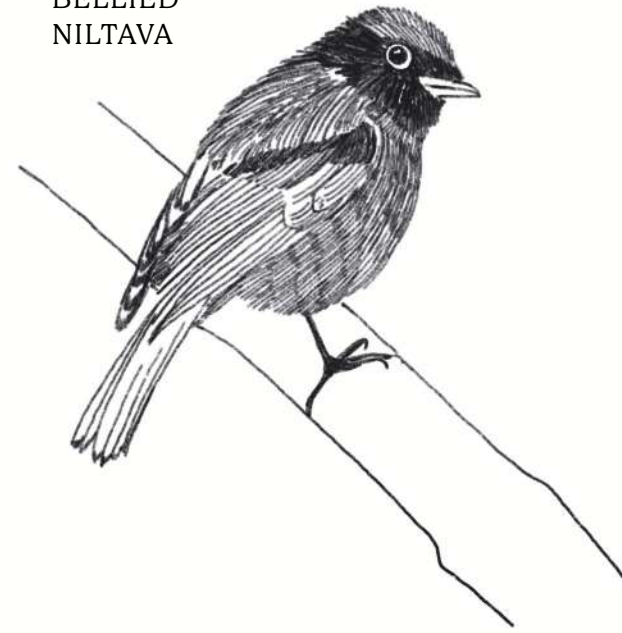
June 7: Yuksam to Ravangla

Saw a pair of Striated Laughing Thrush continuously calling which almost felt like they were following me :)

STRIATED
LAUGHING
THRUSH



RUFIOUS
BELLIED
NILTAVA



June 8: Ravangla to Rangpo
My Birthday :)

Ganesh sir wished me in the morning by saying hoping I will get a lot of likes and he ends up showing me my first liked after turning 19 :) He showed me the Rufous Bellied Niltava.

June 12: Dzulek to Gnathang
Heavy Fog and misty Day

The Himalayan Monal (Female), the weather was already very cold and this sighting just put me into a shock with goosebumps.



HIMALAYAN
MONAL



Growing up in the north, road trips to the mountains were frequent with my family. Ever since I can remember, I've kept a little note on my phone filled with amusing road signs I've encountered—often clever warnings about safe driving. When planning Sikkim, I knew that the Border Roads Organization had jurisdiction there, and I was eager to see what quirky signs they'd have across the state. They didn't disappoint, and my list has since doubled! This journey led me to document even more signs, noticing how vernacular typography and signage play an integral role in shaping our cultural surroundings, reflecting local humor, values, and the unique character of each place.

Musings by Ira



Points to a house in the mountains really high up in the clouds...

GN: "That's Pelling, we gotta go all the way there. It's called Pelling house."

(We facepalmed at all his jokes for 15 days straight!)

Outakes from the COS brain

Curated & Illustrated by Sanika

SHARATH: "I'd better sleep, I don't wanna look at this"

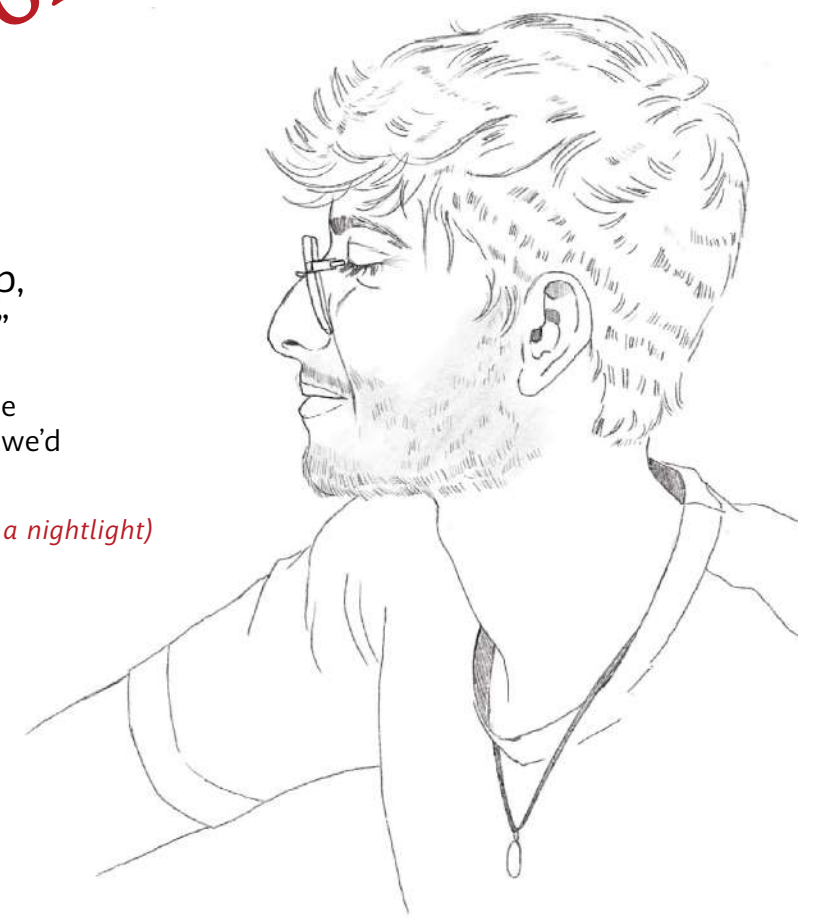
Sharath as we went down an insane descent to our hotel that we knew we'd have to climb the next day.

(Ignorance is bliss. Sharath was out like a nightlight)

AMZ: "You can't just see the falls, you have to be the fall!"

Amartya after I fell.

(Now at any point I'm at least 50% waterfall)



SANIKA: "My mom killed our snake plant."
IRA: did she think it was a real snake?

(If Ira was a plant, she'd be dead)

the warmest bar of Snickers



Words by Anuj Mahajan

Illustration by Sanika

Afterword

As a true crime enthusiast, I have listened to a lot about the darker side of people. It had brought me to a point where I would be weary of every stranger. Although it is wise to always be alert, the trip of Sikkim gave a number of experiences which highlighted the warmer side of people. From the time when a person in Pelling opened his warehouse for our bikes as a shelter to people helping us carry our loaded bikes over the stairs, all these experiences make me think that we are actually dependent on strangers. Every person we encounter can be said to affect us in one way or another.

An experience that stood out was when we were doing the Silk route. At 3000m above sea level, the fatigue was hitting us. It was cold, low visibility and then it started to rain heavily. Five of us were stranded in a shed for almost half an hour as we couldn't afford getting wet in the rain. Even though the shed would be a core memory, we were getting cold and concerned. A sigh of relief was that we were 500m away from a military base. As the rain cleared for a bit, we decided to go to the base to

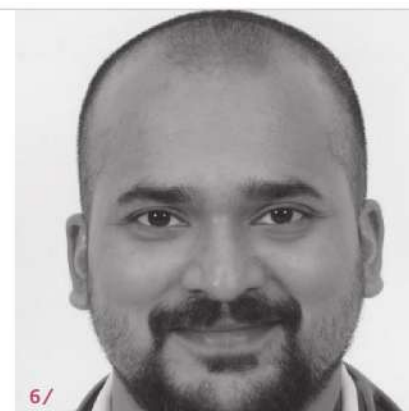
ask if they had seen the rest of our group, which was unreachable because of no network. As we went there, two people from the base helped us with directions. As we were drenched and cold, I asked if they could give us some hot water. They gave us what they had left, which was not a lot.

So one of the guys went to get more, only to come back with hot water along with multiple bars of Snickers for us. That was unexpected. It was such a precious gesture. Two army men who had no association with us, who had never met us before, not only offered us food but also asked us to come inside and get warm by the fire. It was a feeling of warmth we felt up on that mountain in freezing cold. We took the chocolates they offered us even though we had food with us. They gave everyone a Snickers bar and wishes to complete the expedition safely. What an experience! I guess the emotion of helping a person, a stranger, just because they are human is what makes us human.

a big thank you to all of you



for supporting
our tour in
countless ways



1/ Girish Nayak
2/ Amit & Nidhi Kanoria
3/ Mammen Family
4/ Nikhil Ram Mohan
5/ Raksha Pai
6/ Freston Marc Sirur
7/ Regan

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There are two types of education. One
should teach us how to make a living and
the other should teach us how to live.

